

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 3128 **TITLE:** PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE I **GRADE:** S-21

DEFINITION:

Under close supervision, provides basic public health nursing services incorporating health promotion and disease prevention to individuals and/or families in home, clinic, school, and other community locations; health services are provided to clients that have acute or chronic, common, well-defined health problems with typical outcomes; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

This class differs from a Public Health Nurse II in that the Public Health Nurse I functions at the entry-level with direct access to nursing and medical professionals on day-to-day responsibilities. The Public Health Nurse II is at full performance level with greater independence and decision-making responsibilities such as the selection of appropriate methods and procedures to complete tasks.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:

Provides nursing services (e.g. pregnancy testing, maternity and foreign travel immunization, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, and ambulatory care) to individuals and/or families in the home, clinic, office, or community setting;
Participates in health screening and assessment activities;
Administers diagnostic and screening tests for communicable diseases, maternity, psychosocial, and other health care needs;
Gathers health and social histories from clients using a standard protocol;
Reviews laboratory results and interprets tests;
Assists in the implementation of health care plans for individual clients;
Documents public health care service utilization and client outcomes for individual cases, according to established policies, protocols, and procedures;
Maintains records of care in compliance with all local, state, and federal requirements;
Provides information the individual on health promotion, maintenance, and self-care topics, in accordance with designated teaching plan or educational program;
Responds to basic questions from clients, the public, and other health care providers, including questions about community resources;
Complies with professional standards, policies, regulations, and procedures based on federal and state laws and regulations and County community health policies and procedures.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Basic knowledge of nursing theories, principles, practices, methods, processes, and procedures required to provide community health nursing care to individuals, families, and the community;

Knowledge of human growth and development, anatomy, physiology, pharmacology (e.g. side effects, contraindications), preventive medicine, epidemiology, and nutrition;

Knowledge of current practices in public and community health nursing service delivery;

Knowledge of documentation, nursing diagnosis, and quality assurance;

Knowledge of professional standards of nursing practice;

Knowledge of applicable federal, state, and County laws and regulations;

Ability to perform technical nursing procedures (e.g., injections, venipuncture, blood pressure screening, STD check, tube feeding), administering treatments and medications, and using medical equipment in delivering services to clients;

Ability to perform CPR or emergency treatment(s), under direct supervision, for life threatening conditions;

Ability to obtain health history, assess needs, and provide health counseling to clients and families with routine/non-complex health care needs;

Ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships with others, including clients from varied backgrounds and different situations, in individual or team-based settings;

Ability to assess the quality, appropriateness, implications, and impact of decisions or judgments made by others and identify courses of corrective action, where appropriate;

Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with individual or small and large group interactions;

Ability to accurately maintain client medical records and information (e.g., filing, retrieval, recording, and archiving) and to protect the privacy of clients served;

Ability to use technology to document, file, retrieve, make adjustments to medical records or information, and communicate or share public health information in the appropriate format;

Ability to deal calmly and effectively with high stress situations, including a fast-paced work environment, hostile or manipulative individuals, and potentially dangerous situations.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Graduation from a program accredited by the National League for Nursing with a Bachelor's Degree in nursing as determined by the Virginia State Board of Nursing; OR

An Associate's degree accredited by the National League for Nursing or equivalent program as determined by the Virginia State Board of Nursing for designated positions in the Sheriff's Department.

CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES REQUIRED:

Possession of current license to practice as a Registered Nurse in the Commonwealth of Virginia – **a contingency employment offer may be extended for candidates eligible to take the Registered Nurse examination.**

Selected positions or area(s) of assignment may require the incumbent to possess a valid Motor Vehicle Driver's License.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Selected positions or area(s) of assignment will require the incumbent to successfully complete a state criminal history record check prior to appointment.

REVISED:	August 23, 2010
REVISED:	October 8, 2009
REVISED:	December 3, 2007
REVISED:	November 27, 2002
REVISED & RETITLED:	July 26, 1993